Faith in Action

Christian faith is demonstrated in a Catholic teacher when she uses her hands to perform only good service for students, colleagues, parents, community – she puts into action the gentleness with which she demands her students’ treat one another. The Catholic teacher demonstrates Christian faith as a way of her heart when she shows trust in her relationships with others. She trusts that her students will produce their best work, she trusts that her administrator will help encourage and guide her when she needs help, she trusts that the love she gives her students will be reciprocated and given freely to others. A Catholic teacher shows that her faith is engaging the head as she continues to seek out the truth in Scripture, reads and interprets the stories of Jesus and makes a connection to her own life, and believes that there is a way for wonder, awe and mystery to co-exist with and compliment the tangible, daily realities of our society today.

I am on a faith journey in recent years, which has already alerted me to a need for me to be more cognizant of ways – other than prayer – to deepen my relationship with Jesus. Two practices suggested by Groome that I would like to comment on are: Encounter Jesus in the Poor, and Make a Foundation Prayer. I am shortly going to encounter many poor, hungry, homeless Haitians. This country is one of the poorest in the world. I expect that on this trip…in some way…I will encounter Jesus. And I don’t just expect to see Him in the poor…but also in those who come to serve. Making a Foundation Prayer is something that I would like to begin for myself – to personalize my petitions and my praise seems a very simple idea – but I had never considered forming an actual daily prayer for myself – even though I had prepared a short Grace with my students. I think that once I have learned to express my deepest desires and hopes and love for God…I may be able to offer such an opportunity to my future students.